SASKATOON metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

CUPE Saskatchewan
Your Community Union

Public services make lives better every day.

GOLLY GEE, MR. DEE

... YOU SURE ARE UBIQUITOUS! WITH A HIT TV SERIES, BOOK AND MOVIE ROLES UNDER HIS BELT, GERRY DEE IS RETURNING TO HIS FIRST LOVE: STANDUP PAGE 15

2012-13 Snowboard Bindings 50% OFF

2012-13 Snowboards & Snowboard Boots 25% OFF

Sunday Dec 22 – 11-5
Monday Dec 23 – 9-6 • Tuesday Dec 24 – 9-2
• CLOSED DEC 25, DEC 26 •
Dec 27 – 9-6 • Dec 28 – 9 to 5:30

Doug's SPOKE N SPORT
Grosvenor Park Mall - 8th Street E • 306-373-4224
spokensport.com

Premier Brad Wall speaks to media on Wednesday at the legislature in Regina, saying that the next provincial budget will likely involve some belt-tightening. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

Tighter budget belts ahead: Wall

Economy good, but ...
Premier made a similar warning last February before the budget was tabled in March

Premier Brad Wall is already trying to manage expectations ahead of the next provincial budget.

At a news conference to boast about Saskatchewan's population growing to 1,114,170 people, Wall warned on Wednesday that just because the economy is good, it doesn't mean provincial coffers will be rolling in money.

"I think people think, 'Well, if the economy's strong, the provincial budget must be flush and revenue must be strong.' In Saskatchewan, that's not always the case," Wall said at the legislature.

"The most important thing is that the economy is continuing to be strong, but we're heading into a year where it's going to be tighter financially and the budget's going to reflect that, so when that happens in the spring people ought not to think, 'Well, this reflects badly on the economy.'

"We've been there before in 2009 when we grew by 17,000 people but our potash revenues virtually collapsed."

Get that budget balanced!

"Maybe not cuts, but we're certainly not going to be expanding a lot of programming. I wouldn't expect that. And if we can find efficiencies in existing programming, we would do that."

Premier Brad Wall, on "significant decisions" the government will need to make to keep spending in the three per cent range.

Potash is mined and used primarily as an ingredient in fertilizer. Saskatchewan collects billions of dollars in revenue from taxes and royalties from companies that mine the resource.

But demand for potash softened and prices fell this year after Russian-based Uralkali, one of the world's largest potash producers, quit an export partnership. China and India — key markets for fertilizer — then delayed purchases in expectation of lower prices.

The province said in its mid-year financial update in November that potash revenue is projected to drop by $107.2 million from the budget forecast.

Wall said the government will make sure the budget is balanced next March. It will try to keep spending in the three per cent range, he said.

"That represents some significant decisions that we're going to need to make, to make sure we hold it at three per cent," said Wall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHEATON GMC•BUICK•CADILLAC The Cadillac of Dealers

GMC holiday EVENT
A SEASON TO CELEBRATE INCREDIBLE THINKING.

$1000 HOLIDAY
SIGN & DRIVE LEASING
2 YEAR/40,000 KM COMPLIMENTARY OIL CHANGES

$0 1ST MONTH LEASE PAYMENT + $0 DOWN + $0 SECURITY + $0 DUE AT DELIVERY

306.244.8131 | 2102 MILLAR AVENUE WWW.WHEATONSASKATOON.COM

fido

BOXING DAY EVENT

Celebrate the savings

Phones from $0

Samsung Galaxy S III Mini
~~$80~~ $0

Sony Xperia SP
~~$80~~ $0

Nexus 4
~~$100~~ $75

with a 2-year Tab24 agreement on a Standard plan[1]

A great phone deserves a great plan.

- **Unlimited** Messaging[2] (international text, picture and video messages)
- **Unlimited** weekends and evenings from 5 p.m., Canada-wide[3]
- 400 Canada-wide daytime minutes[3]
- 400 MB of data[4]
- Call Display and Voicemail[5]

$39 per month[6]

Includes the Fido ADVANTAGE

Fido Check-In • LiveANSWERS™ • FidoDOLLARS™ • Tab24

NEW

It's time to switch. Visit a store, call 1-866-301-3436 or go to fido.ca.

FIDO STORES

Centre at Circle and Eighth
Confederation Mall
Midtown Plaza

FUTURE SHOP · Walmart · BEST BUY · WIRELESSWAVE · tbooth wireless · COSTCO WHOLESALE · WIRELESS etc... · MOBILE · LONDON DRUGS · THE MOBILE SHOP (Exclusively where President's Choice® products are sold.)

Offers subject to change without notice. Taxes extra. **1.** With new activation on a 2-year Tab24 agreement on a Standard plan. Device Savings Recovery Fees and/or Service Deactivation Fee (as applicable) apply in accordance with your service agreement. Taxes extra. **2.** Plans include messages sent from Canada to Canadian, U.S. and international wireless numbers. Sent/received premium messages (alerts, messages related to content and promotions) and messages sent while roaming not included and charged at applicable rates. **3.** Airtime includes calls from Canada to Canadian numbers only, billed by the minute. Each additional minute costs 45¢ (20¢ for Call Forwarding). **4.** Additional data: $5 /250 MB, charged in $5 increments. Visit **fido.ca/roaming** to learn more about data roaming pay-per-use rates. **5.** Service includes up to 3 messages, each 3 minutes in length that can be saved up to 3 days. **6.** Standard plans available monthly or with a 2-year Tab24 agreement. Data is a monthly service with Standard plans. Additional long distance, roaming, data, add-ons, provincial 9-1-1 fees (if applicable) and taxes are extra & billed monthly. © 2013

City cautions residents as coyote sightings shoot up

Winter forage. Mother worried about children, neighbours as animals ramp up search for food

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Saskatoon officials are warning residents to be cautious around coyotes, amid an increase in sightings in the city area.

Darren Crilly, the city's director of parks, said on Wednesday that the animals are becoming more active in their search for food.

"In the winter time, the coyotes are foraging constantly," Crilly said.

"Food is more scarce in the winter season, obviously, as there's snow cover and things that make it difficult for the coyotes to obtain food."

A Saskatoon woman is worried about a coyote that has been hanging around her backyard, and says the animal has become too comfortable around people — especially her small children.

"I'm concerned about the safety of my kids," said Rauncie Kinnaird, the mother of three.

"My children are four, nine and 12, and the kids are able to get quite close to it — within five to 10 feet."

Kinnaird said she has contacted the city's pest control branch about the animal, and that it has advised her only to board up her wrought-iron fence, and to remove a play structure and trampoline from her yard. It has also suggested that she remove low fruit branches to deter the animal. She says those measures won't address the larger problem.

"We're certainly aware that neighbours have had the same issues, so it's displacing the problem from my yard to a neighbour's yard," she said.

"It's a safety concern in general for the area," she added. "It needs to be dealt with before it hurts a kid."

However, Crilly said the city doesn't remove such animals unless they're sick or trapped. He noted that they educate residents on limiting coyotes' access, saying the animals are not dangerous unless approached or fed.

Rauncie Kinnaird, seen in her backyard with four-year-old daughter McKayla on Wednesday, is concerned about a coyote hanging around her property. She says she'll call police the next time she feels the animal is jeopardizing her safety. Inset, a coyote is seen at Lake Louise, Alta., on Dec. 5. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO; INSET: JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arash Janfada, right, and William Topping have launched a campaign to support the MagnoPlug. METRO

Local inventors need your help to reach $100K

A couple of winters ago, Arash Janfada was pulling out of his parking spot when inspiration struck.

The Saskatoon engineer forgot to unplug his block heater, and damaged his vehicle.

Because Janfada was confident he isn't the only one to have encountered this cold-climate dilemma, he partnered with fellow engineer William Topping to design what they call the MagnoPlug — an extension cord that easily disconnects with magnets.

"The colder it gets, the tighter the fit becomes in a standard plug," Janfada told Metro.

"It was the need to overcome that problem that resulted in this product."

After two years of testing and soldering wires on Topping's kitchen table, the duo has a prototype. And they've launched a campaign on the crowdfunding website Kickstarter to raise startup capital, in order to be ready to produce it in mass quantities for sale.

"We're counting on the folks here in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan ... to give us some support."

While their goal is $100,000, they have gathered more than $4,000 in only three days. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

Retaliation alleged

Solo files more rights complaints against city

Secular activist Ashu Solo says the City of Saskatoon is retaliating against him for filing two human-rights complaints concerning religious messages by the municipality.

The first complaint, concerning a Christian prayer at a volunteer appreciation event in 2012, is before the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

Another, concerning a "Merry Christmas" message on city transit buses, was recently thrown out.

Solo has no evidence to back the claims, though he alleges that rejections of his applications to the cultural diversity and race relations committee and the Saskatoon Public Library board are a direct result of his complaints.

"It was obvious retaliation against me," said Solo, who previously sat on the cultural diversity and race-relations committee.

Solo is also filing a complaint against the City of Saskatoon's solicitor's office, alleging that solicitor Patricia Warwick banned him from contacting city councillors and other municipal staff as a result of the other grievances.

"I can't prove for sure they retaliated against me," he said, "but I believe they did and I think the Human Rights Commission should investigate."

A third complaint concerning the results of the Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Living In Harmony Awards was also filed, as Solo claims his objections resulted in his work not being selected.

Under Section 45 of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, discrimination or penalty against a person for taking part in proceedings is prohibited.

Warwick was not available for an interview on Wednesday.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Pharmacists lobby to give vaccinations at drugstores

Consultation. College collaborating with province to study possible amendment to Pharmacy Act

Pharmacist George Furneaux, seen here at his Regina workplace, says having Saskatchewan pharmacists administer vaccines at drugstores would lead to benefits including higher immunization rates and access. The Health Ministry is considering the proposal. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

Saskatchewan's Health Ministry is considering having pharmacists administer vaccines at drugstores if the move leads to long-lasting benefits.

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists is working with the government to examine whether they should amend the provincial Pharmacy Act to accommodate the change, says organization registrar Ray Joubert.

So far, only pharmacists in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are permitted by their provincial governments to inject vaccines at retail pharmacies.

"We have been in consultation with the College of Pharmacists about their desire to practise the full scope of their training," said Brad Havervold, the Ministry of Health's executive director of workforce planning.

"Encouraging them to do this is really important for us."

According to a recent report titled The Sustainable Solutions Report: A Focus on Immunization, commissioned by Shoppers Drug Mart, the move could lead to an increase in accessibility, savings of money for the health-care system, reductions in physician workloads and improvements in the economy by having fewer workers take sick days.

"We think it will lead to these benefits," Joubert said.

"But the issue here is that we already have a robust public health system, and we want to assure everyone across the board that the hypothesis stands."

Havervold said there's no immediate plan to introduce legislation that will allow the change, though consultations are continuing to determine whether the move should be made.

"We've just been talking about general conceptual terms … but we really need to understand what this means for the system," he said.

SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO IN REGINA

Tech competition gives leg-up to entrepreneurs

Lorna Shaw-Lennox, manager of startup and projects with the U of S industry liaison office, says the Tech Venture Challenge provides a crash course in growing a business. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

A dozen businesses from the University of Saskatchewan have been selected to compete for a $50,000 boost that could change their futures.

Though the main draw of the Tech Venture Challenge — sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan's industry liaison office (ILO) — is the $50,000 prize, organizers say the experience teams get through the process is more valuable.

"It's an opportunity to learn some of those fundamental skills that you need as an entrepreneur, and it's also an opportunity to get connected with the business community and possible mentors and advisors," said Lorna Shaw-Lennox, manager of startup and projects with the ILO.

"Some of these people can open doors and maybe get these young entrepreneurs their first customers."

Shaw-Lennox noted that the 12 teams will go through an intense four-month training program on growing a business, through workshops and interactions with industry leaders.

"So many times in the last few years, the finalists have said they already won by just going through this training and getting this help," she said.

Ian Meier, CEO of Bitstrata Systems, which created the Agrimatics Libra technology that enables farmers to track crop yields on mobile devices, said winning a previous Tech Venture Challenge put his enterprise years ahead of schedule.

"We would have a product, but we wouldn't have as much exposure and we wouldn't be as far along," Meier said, noting that the competition forced him to decide on a product and taught him how to pitch in an appealing manner.

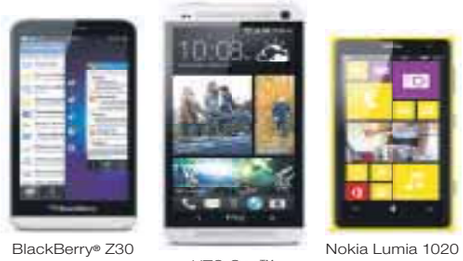
Alongside the grand prize, teams will vie for a second-place prize of $5,000 and a third-place prize of $3,000, with winners announced in May.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Light up the season.

Get the brightest smartphones from $0.*

On a 2 year term. Minimum monthly commitment applies.



BlackBerry® Z30
$49
No term $600

HTC One™
$0
No term $650

Nokia Lumia 1020
$99
No term $700

Pair your smartphone with our $65 plan† and enjoy:

- Unlimited nationwide talk and text‡
- Up to 5 GB of nationwide data**
- Caller ID and Voice Mail
- No activation fees

Switch to the best customer service on Canada's most reliable 4G mobile network.††

Learn more at **telus.com**

TELUS
the future is friendly*

For more details, visit your TELUS store, authorized dealer or retailer, or call 1-866-264-2966.

BEST BUY · BLACKS · FUTURE SHOP · LONDON DRUGS · THE MOBILE SHOP · Walmart

TELUS STORES & AUTHORIZED DEALERS

Centre at Circle and Eighth	Midtown Plaza	108 Ave D South	1844 McOrmond Drive
Lawson Heights	15 Innovation Blvd	302 Stonebridge Blvd	2723 Faithfull Ave

*Available for clients who activate or renew on a 2 year term with a $50 monthly spend before tax. SIM not included. †Taxes, long distance, additional airtime, roaming and pay-per-use charges are extra. Plus applicable provincial or municipal government 911 emergency service fees in Saskatchewan (62¢). Directory assistance 411 charge is $2.50 per call. ‡Premium and subscription messages are not included. An additional 40¢/message charge will apply for each text message or attachment sent to non-Canadian numbers. Customers with devices not able to display picture or video messages will receive a text message that includes a web address for viewing. **Additional usage will be charged at 5¢/MB. Cannot be combined with any other data plan. Tethering included. Access to BlackBerry Enterprise Service is not included. Data usage is subject to a monthly overage limit of 10 GB. ††Best customer service claim based on a comparison of national wireless service providers drawn from the most recent report of the Commissioner for Complaints for Telecommunications Services; visit the CCTS website or see telus.com/bestservice for details. Most reliable network claim based on testing of voice-call success rates, data-session completion rates and industry-standard call-quality measures against other national wireless service providers in metropolitan areas across Canada. TELUS, the TELUS logo, the future is friendly and telus.com are trademarks of TELUS Corporation, used under licence. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2013 TELUS.

HYUNDAI
DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR* Plus UP TO $3,000 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTS
+ 0%* FINANCING FOR UP TO 48 MONTHS
HURRY IN OFFER ENDS JAN 2ND
FFUN Choose Your Own Reward Fabulous LAS VEGAS
VISIT US AT: SASKATOONHYUNDAI.COM OR CALL 306.659.6014 /FFUNHYUNDAI 2035 IDYLWYLD DR. N.

Ethnic violence kills 500 in four days as South Sudan crisis grows

Worries of looming civil war. UN chief calls for urgent solution as 20,000 forced to seek refuge

At least 500 people, most of them soldiers, have been killed in South Sudan since Sunday, a senior government official said, as an ethnic rivalry threatened to tear apart the world's newest country.

The clashes apparently are pitting soldiers from the majority Dinka tribe of President Salva Kiir against those from ousted Vice-President Riek Machar's Nuer ethnic group, raising concerns the violence could degenerate into a civil war.

Fighting spread on Wednesday to Jonglei, the largest state in South Sudan, where troops loyal to Machar were said to be trying to take control of Bor, the state capital.

Machar himself is the subject of a manhunt by the country's military after he was identified by Kiir as the leader of an alleged coup attempt on Sunday. Machar has denied he was behind any coup attempt.

Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the foreign minister, told The Associated Press late Wednesday that there was heavy fighting in Bor, but he denied renegade soldiers had overtaken it.

At least 19 civilians have been killed in violence in Bor, said Martin Nesirky, a spokesman for the UN secretary-general's office, citing figures from the South Sudan Red Cross.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon told reporters Wednesday that South Sudan was experiencing a political crisis that "urgently needs to be dealt with through political dialogue."

Ban said he urged Kiir "to resume dialogue with the political opposition."

South Sudan has been plagued by ethnic violence since it peacefully broke away from Sudan in 2011 after decades of civil war.

The violence has forced about 20,000 people to seek refuge at UN facilities in Juba since Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civilians arrive at the UN mission in Juba, South Sudan, to take refuge on Tuesday. A political crisis has since Sunday turned into ethnic violence resulting in the deaths of 500 and the displacement of 20,000. ROLLA HINEDI/UNMISS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Analysis

Breakout still unclear

Casie Copeland, the South Sudan analyst for the International Crisis Group who is in Juba, said key Nuer leaders in the army were defecting in Jonglei but that "events that led to Sunday's fighting remain unclear."

Toby Lanzer, the U.N.'s humanitarian coordinator in South Sudan, said in a Twitter post that thousands of civilians in Jonglei had sought refuge at a U.N. facility there.

On Tuesday the United States ordered its citizens to leave South Sudan immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snowden seeking refuge in Brazil. Baird says NSA informer should surrender

National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden should abandon his bid for asylum in Brazil and surrender himself to the United States, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Wednesday.

Baird told The Canadian Press that Snowden's actions have compromised global security.

The U.S. wants to prosecute Snowden, who was granted temporary asylum in Russia. The move angered the Obama administration and has chilled relations between Moscow and Washington.

"I think he should go back to the United States and face the consequences of his actions," Baird said when asked about Snowden's outreach to the Brazilian government this week.

Snowden's cache of documents showed that Brazil was a prime target of the NSA in Latin America.

It also suggests Canada's spying agency once monitored Brazil's mines and energy department and helped the U.S. and Britain spy on participants at the London G20 summit in 2009.

Give it up

"I think he should go back to the United States and face the consequences of his actions."

John Baird, Canada's foreign affairs minister, speaking about Edward Snowden's recent move to reach out to the government of Brazil for asylum.

In an open letter earlier this week, Snowden praised the Brazilian government for standing up to the U.S. for spying on the country.

Snowden's temporary asylum in Russia is to expire in August.

The Brazilian government has not given any signs of having a plan to take Snowden in.

Amnesty International has called on Brazil to seriously consider Snowden's asylum request.

Amnesty says he exposed the unlawful surveillance of private communications by the U.S. and that he might need refugee status.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Morsi faces death penalty in new trial accusing him of plotting terrorism wave

Egyptian prosecutors on Wednesday announced a new trial of ousted President Mohammed Morsi and the top leaders of his Muslim Brotherhood, accusing them of conspiring with Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran's Revolutionary Guard and militant groups to carry out a wave of terrorism to destabilize the country.

The charges, which carry a potential death penalty, are the most sweeping and heaviest accusations yet in a series of trials against the Brotherhood. The new trial of Morsi, the three top Brotherhood leaders and 32 other defendants appeared aimed at crippling the top echelons of the group and further tarnishing the Brotherhood among the public ahead of a key January referendum on a new constitution.

The new military-backed government is seeking a strong "yes" vote for the constitution to show the legitimacy of the process put in place after the military removed Morsi on July 3. Brotherhood supporters oppose the new document and have vowed protests against it.

Since the coup, prompted by massive protests calling for Morsi's removal, Egypt has been in continual unrest. Morsi supporters have been holding near daily protests demanding his reinstatement, met by a fierce security crackdown that has killed hundreds of people and arrested thousands of Brotherhood members

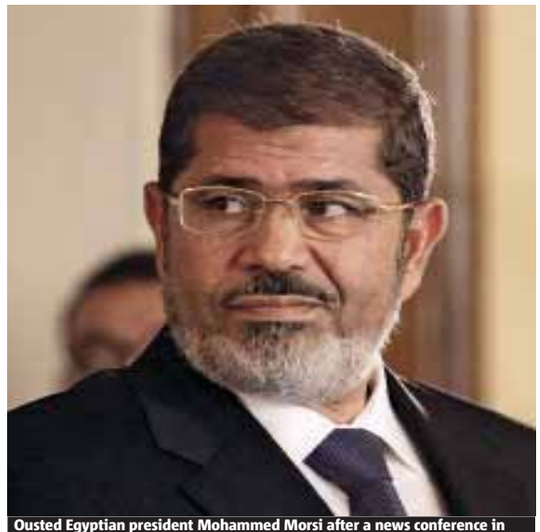
Meanwhile, a wave of retaliatory attacks by suspected Islamic militants have targeted Christians and security forces, and the Sinai Peninsula has been the centre of a mounting militant insurgency.

Throughout, the new government has depicted the Brotherhood as a violent movement that threatened the nation and forced the military to remove it from power. Previous, ongoing trials of Morsi and other Brotherhood leaders have focused on accusations of the group's alleged violence.

But the new charges take that claim to a new level, accusing the group of being enmeshed in deals with terrorists since 2005 aimed at attaining and holding onto power, of plotting the collapse of police and prison breaks during the 2011 uprising that brought autocrat Hosni Mubarak down and of organizing the Sinai militant backlash.

Mohammed el-Damati, a defence lawyer for the Brotherhood, denounced the new trial — and those already started — as "political," aiming to give a legal veneer to the crackdown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

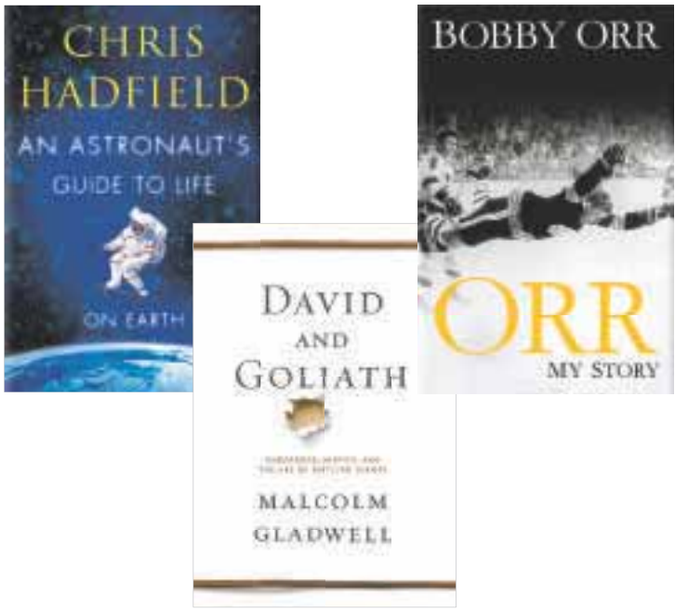


Ousted Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi after a news conference in Cairo in July 2012. MAYA ALLERUZZO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

GREAT GIFTS, GREAT DEALS!

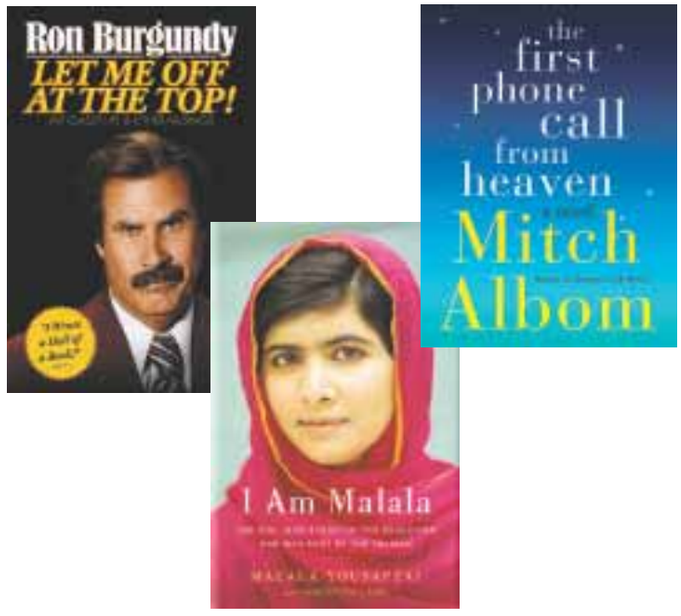
WHILE THEY LAST

ONLY $20 EACH[1]



THE SEASON'S BEST BOOKS

40% OFF BESTSELLERS[2]



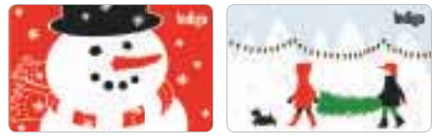
FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST

HOTTEST TOYS

UP TO

50% OFF[3]

GIFTCARDS



GIVE THE INDIGO EXPERIENCE

SELECT JEWELLERY AND SCARVES

UP TO

50% OFF[3]

Indigo | Chapters | Coles | indigo.ca

[1] Promotional Pricing for An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth, Orr: My Story, and David and Goliath valid until January 5th 2014. [2] IN-STORE: 40% discount applies to in-stock books featured on Indigo's Top 20 English Bestseller list at time of purchase. Bestseller list gets updated regularly and is determined by Indigo Books & Music Inc. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion excluding everyday irewards discount and cannot be used to adjust amount paid on previous purchases. ONLINE: 50% discount applies to irewards and plum rewards members - 45% off for non-members - on Top 50 Online Bestsellers as selected by Indigo.ca. [3] IN-STORE AND ONLINE: Offer valid on select in-stock merchandise, while quantities last. Not valid on kiosk. Discount percentage, prices and selection may vary between stores and online. Offers featured are not valid in conjunction with any other discount, offer or promotion and cannot be used to adjust amount paid on previous purchases. Offers featured may change or end at any time without notice. Price, product selection and availability may vary between stores and online. Indigo, Chapter, Coles and Indigo.ca are trade marks of Indigo Books & Music Inc.

Rescued crane operator suffers severe burns after massive fire

Kingston, Ont.
Authorities concerned damaged crane could come crashing down

A 68-year-old construction worker stranded atop a crane at the centre of a massive fire in Kingston, Ont., was "severely burned" before a military helicopter was able to navigate smoke and leaping flames to airlift him to safety.

Adam Jastrzebski, who had burns to his hands, legs, back and buttocks, was recovering in hospital Wednesday after his dramatic rescue a day earlier, said his employer at Canadian Professional Crane Inc.

"He's in severe pain right now in the hospital and they're giving him morphine," said Aram Malek.

"I'm just surprised no one got hurt more than that because the fire was enormous."

Firefighters from neighbouring communities had to be called in on Tuesday afternoon to help Kingston crews battle the flames which had engulfed an apartment building that was under construction.

A crowd watched from the streets as the crane operator got out of his cab, crept along the boom of the crane to its very edge and waited to be rescued by a team from CFB Trenton.

Meanwhile, authorities focused their attention Wednesday on the charred crane which towered above the still-smouldering remains of the building at the heart of the blaze.

"Right now our biggest risk is having that crane in its current condition," said Kingston fire chief Rheaume Chaput. "It's been impinged by fire and is in a damaged condition. So we want to make sure we make that safe, get that down."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Members of 424 Squadron, from left, Capt. Jean-Benoit Girard-Beauseigle, Master Cpl. Matt Davidson, Cpl. Iain Cleaton, Sgt. Cory Cisyk and Capt. David Agnew, pose for media at CFB Trenton on Wednesday. Inset: Sgt. Cisyk rescues a crane operator who was stranded at the end of his crane during a huge fire in Kingston, Ont., on Tuesday. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fatal disaster

Rail service resumes in Lac-Mégantic

Trains are rolling through Lac-Mégantic, Que., for the first time since last summer's deadly rail disaster.

Rail service resumed Wednesday in the town where a runaway train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded in July, killing 47 people.

The crash also destroyed part of Lac-Mégantic's downtown core.

Many locals are still trying to cope with the disaster and have mixed feelings about the train's return to the railway-dependent community.

Businesses along the railroad say the service is vital for the town's economy.

The first train arrived at the Tafisa Canada plant in the town's industrial park to pick up a load of particle board. While it was there, tests were carried out to ensure signals were functioning properly on its route out, which took it through the centre of the town.

The train headed to nearby Sherbrooke after leaving the Tafisa factory.

The gradual return of freight trains to Lac-Mégantic must follow strict rules and conditions.

For now, no dangerous substances will be transported through the town, which is about 250 kilometres east of Montreal.

The track is still owned by Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway — the company at the heart of the disaster.

The insolvent railway is expected to be sold in the coming weeks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reporter accepts Ford apology

In a statement released on Wednesday night, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has retracted statements he made about Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale.

Dale responded on Twitter, saying he won't be proceeding with a defamation lawsuit against Ford.

The reporter says he appreciates Ford's "complete retraction and unqualified apology," and he's glad the truth is no longer in dispute.

Dale served Ford last week with a libel notice, demanding he retract all of his false claims about what happened during an incident near Ford's house in May 2012 and issue an "unreserved, abject, complete apology."

During a televised interview with Conrad Black, which aired Dec. 9 on VisionTV, Ford claimed that Dale was in his backyard, "taking pictures of little kids" — a claim he has now retracted.

Dale says he won't be taking legal action against the mayor, and is looking forward to getting back to work.

Dale has said he was writing a story about a plot of public land adjacent to Ford's house that the mayor wanted to buy, so he went to take a look when the mayor emerged from his home to confront him.

The reporter has said that at no time was he on the mayor's property nor did he take any pictures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Long & McQuade MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
long-mcquade.com
Shop Online!
Best Price. Best Selection.
Holiday Shopping Made Easy.
721 43rd St E 306.664.1966 | 617 8th St E 306.665.9900

Convicted in Thailand

Evidence shows B.C. man viewed child porn: Crown

The Crown says police have uncovered evidence that suggests a B.C. man who spent five years in a Thai prison for sexually abusing children has viewed child porn since his return to Canada. Christopher Neil hadn't been charged in Canada, but prosecutors successfully sought conditions under the Criminal Code designed to protect the public. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Far North

Life expectancy of Inuit trails rest of Canada

A new Statistics Canada study shows Inuit life expectancy still trails that of the rest of the country. Among Inuit men, the main reason for the lower life expectancy was injury, particularly self-inflicted injury among males aged 15 to 24. Among Inuit women, the gap in life expectancy was attributed to cancers and respiratory diseases.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Not snow smart

Tracks in fresh snow lead police to B&E suspect

Police in Windsor are crediting fresh snow with helping officers nab a break-in suspect. Police say a woman called 911 just before 3 a.m. Wednesday after seeing someone taking a screen off her window. When officers arrived they saw fresh footprints in the snow. John Turpin, 31, faces a number of charges including theft and break and enter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retirement for heroic dog

Too old to guide. Owner doesn't want to part with guide dog who leaped onto subway tracks to save him

Cecil Williams pets his guide dog, Orlando, in his hospital bed in New York City on Tuesday. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cecil Williams, who has been recovering at a New York City hospital with his guide dog, Orlando, still by his side, had been slated to get another working dog in January or February to replace the 11-year-old black lab who leaped onto subway tracks after his blind owner lost consciousness and fell off the station platform.

Now, he would ideally like to have two dogs — one working and one retired as a pet — if logistics, physical abilities and finances allow.

If that's not possible, the family that raised Orlando as a puppy says it will be "absolutely thrilled to have him back," said Guiding Eyes for the Blind spokeswoman Michelle Brier. "They're very thrilled their little baby has made such a big difference."

Williams said on Tuesday that he couldn't pay for a non-working dog, so he was planning to look for a good home for Orlando. Guiding Eyes provides working dogs for free but cannot cover retired dogs' expenses.

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, where Williams is staying, has been fielding queries from well-wishers offering money and other assistance.

Williams said that if he does decide he's able to care for two dogs, he'd need help paying for the lab's care.

The organization was setting up a fund and planned to post information on its website. If it turns out Williams doesn't need the money, it will be used for other guide dogs.

Williams, 61, and Orlando both escaped serious injury Tuesday when they were bumped by a train passing over them — a miraculous end to a harrowing ordeal that began when Williams felt faint on his way to the dentist.

Witnesses said Orlando barked frantically and tried to stop Williams from tumbling off the platform. Matthew Martin told the New York Post that Orlando leaped onto the tracks as the train approached and kissed Williams to entice him to move.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australia. Tourist on her phone plunges off pier while browsing Facebook

A woman was walking along a bay in Melbourne on Monday night when she became distracted by her Facebook feed and plummeted off the pier into the chilly water, Victoria state police said.

A witness called for help and police rushed to the woman's aid. They found her flailing around in the water, about 20 metres from the pier.

"She was still out in the water lying on her back in a floating position because she told us later that she couldn't swim," Senior Constable Dean Kelly of the state water police told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "She still had her mobile phone in her hand and initially she apologized and said sorry."

The woman was taken to a hospital for treatment.

"With Facebook, or social media in general as far as we're concerned, if you're anywhere near the water just pay attention," Kelly said. "Especially if you can't swim."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christmas scam

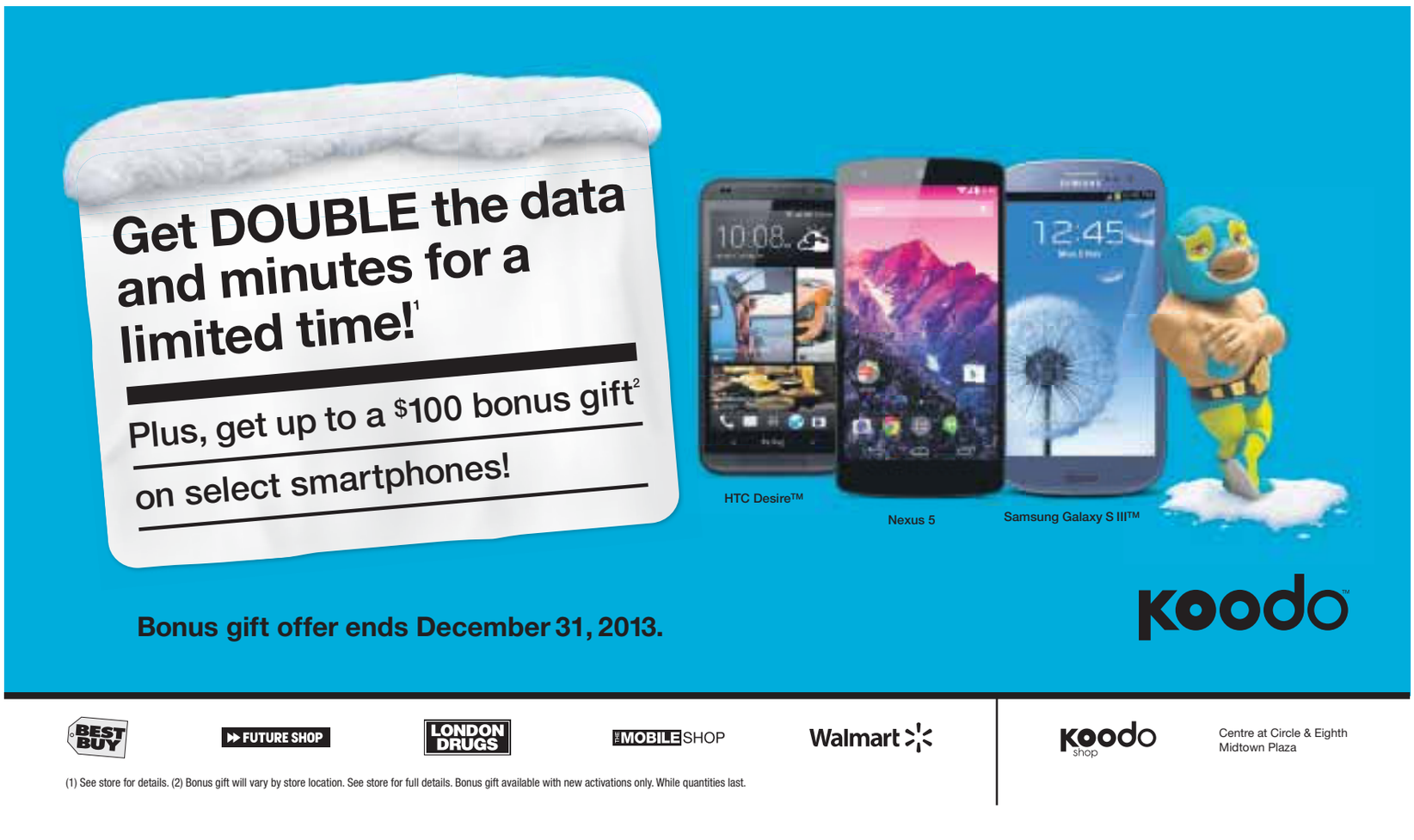
Couple lied about stolen gifts: Cops

A Mississauga, Ont., couple who reported their Christmas gifts stolen — including an iPad for their son who has Down syndrome — have been charged with public mischief.

Peel police allege the pair fabricated the theft.

The man and woman claimed that they had been driving home from the mall on Saturday evening when a sheet of ice smashed their back window, causing their purchases to fly out of the vehicle and then be stolen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


Get DOUBLE the data and minutes for a limited time![1]
Plus, get up to a $100 bonus gift[2] on select smartphones!
HTC Desire™
Nexus 5
Samsung Galaxy S III™
koodo
Bonus gift offer ends December 31, 2013.
BEST BUY
FUTURE SHOP
LONDON DRUGS
THE MOBILE SHOP
Walmart
koodo shop
Centre at Circle & Eighth
Midtown Plaza
(1) See store for details. (2) Bonus gift will vary by store location. See store for full details. Bonus gift available with new activations only. While quantities last.

Ukraine. PM promises financial stability after Moscow deal

Ukraine's leadership on Wednesday praised a Russia-financed bailout as a guarantee of financial stability, while opposition activists claimed the deal is likely to worsen economic troubles.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday pledged to buy $15 billion worth of Ukrainian bonds and sharply cut the price of natural gas in an effort to relieve political pressure on Ukraine's embattled president, Viktor Yanukovych.

The Ukrainian economy risks a default next year, and over the past months Yanukovych has actively lobbied both Russia and the European Union for a financial life jacket.

His decision last month to opt for a deal with Russia triggered a wave of demonstrations that have crystallized into a large, round-the-clock protest camp in Independence Square in Kyiv, the country's capital.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov told a Cabinet meeting that the deal with Russia ensures "people's confidence in a stable life," while an association agreement with Europe would have given Ukraine a "New Year's present" of "bankruptcy and social collapse," according to the Interfax news agency.

It is unclear what Putin asked for in return for his financial support, but reports suggest that Moscow wants Ukraine to purchase more natural gas and import Russian coal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romania. Officials accused of taking bribes for giving tips on corpses

Some 26 Romanian police officers and ambulance employees have been charged with calling undertakers to tell them that someone had died — or in some cases were not yet dead — in exchange for money.

Officials say the suspects called funeral parlour managers about people who had died in car accidents or collapsed on the street.

Prosecutor Corina Paraschivescu told The Associated Press on Wednesday that 26 officials, 10 of them police officers, had been charged. Six of them were under arrest for about a month because they were considered "a social danger." She said police and emergency officials would contact undertakers with the names and addresses of the deceased or gravely injured from the identity cards that Romanians always carry or send the telephone numbers of family members from victims' mobile phones. Undertakers would then contact the families to try to sell funeral services.

Local Romanian media reported that officials got up to 170 euros ($235) for information on a fresh corpse. Police earn between 600 euros and 2,100 euros a month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supplement your income while helping our community
BECOME A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER. FREE TRAINING. CALL TODAY!
306-343-5032
or e-mail melissa.wieler@firstgroup.com
www.firststudentcanada.com
We are an equal opportunity employer.
First Student

Russia approves new amnesty bill

Protesters. The bill could apply to Greenpeace activists and the two jailed members of the Pussy Riot punk band

Greenpeace International activists Philip Ball, left, from Britain, and Camila Speziale, of Argentina, embrace in St. Petersburg, Russia, on Wednesday after hearing the Russian parliament passed an amnesty that would likely pardon them. DMITRI SHAROMOV/GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia's parliament on Wednesday passed an amnesty bill that will likely apply to the 30-member crew of a Greenpeace ship detained after an Arctic protest, but it wasn't immediately clear if and when the activists, including two Canadians, would be allowed to leave the country.

A spokesperson for Greenpeace said the organization had hoped Paul Ruzycki of Port Colborne, Ont., and Alexandre Paul of Montreal and 28 other activists could return home by Christmas, but that seems unlikely given the amount of red tape surrounding their release.

At the earliest, they may make it in time to ring in the new year, Diego Creimer told The Canadian Press.

The amnesty, which also would likely free the two jailed members of the Pussy Riot punk band, has been largely viewed as the Kremlin's attempt to soothe criticism of Russia's human rights record ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi next year.

But opposition lawmakers argued it doesn't go nearly far enough and the complicated legislation appeared to leave many questions open.

The State Duma on Wednesday voted 446-0 in favour of the carefully tailored bill, which mostly applies to those who haven't committed violent crimes, first-time offenders, minors and women with small children. Lawmakers said they expect about 2,000 people to be released from jail.

The Duma adopted last-minute amendments to the bill to include suspects of hooliganism who are still awaiting trial, a provision that could apply to the crew of the Greenpeace ship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Still in limbo

Family 'cautiously optimistic'

The sister of one of two Canadian Greenpeace activists facing charges in Russia says she's "cautiously optimistic" that an amnesty bill passed Wednesday in Moscow will apply to them.

Patricia Ruzycki Stirling said the news brought some relief from the anxiety that has plagued her family for months, but the tight-knit clan won't celebrate until Paul Ruzycki is back on Canadian soil. When he does arrive, however, his entire hometown will welcome him back with a massive party, she said.

"All he said was, 'We've been on this roller-coaster before,'" she told The Canadian Press. "He said, 'Things look good but please don't get all your hopes up until I call you and say I've signed my papers and we're headed to the airport,'" she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal MP sorry for comments about actress Pamela Anderson

A Liberal MP in Newfoundland says he is sorry for "intemperate" comments he made on social media after actress Pamela Anderson and Sam Simon, co-creator of The Simpsons, visited his province offering fishermen money to stop hunting seals.

Gerry Byrne has posted an online apology to Anderson and Simon, who were in St. John's, N.L., on Tuesday to offer $1 million to the Canadian Sealers Association to help bring an end to the commercial hunt.

According to a screen grab of his Twitter account, posted online by CBC, Byrne tweeted, "Hey Pam, here's a thought. Take your million and donate it to...sexually transmitted disease prevention education. Good self-promotion."

Another message from his account referred to Anderson and Simon as "a has been 'actor' with an incurable STD and a guy dying of cancer."

Anderson was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2001. Simon's terminal cancer was detected through much of his body last year.

In the apology on his website, Byrne says his comments were the result of "frustration, disappointment and anger" after hearing comments about the seal hunt and those who conduct it by people opposed to the industry.

"To all whom I have offended in any way, including Ms. Anderson and Mr. Simon, I sincerely apologize and retract the statements I made on social media. Our strong differences regarding what I believe to be a humane and sustainable harvest of seals off the Canadian coastline and what others may see it as may remain but I apologize for stepping beyond that debate."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Want 'more choice, lower prices and better service' from wireless providers?

David and Goliath.
Feds aim to encourage more competition, leading to better deals for Canadian consumers

Canada's biggest telecom companies are facing a cap on the wireless roaming rates they charge smaller rivals for using their networks and could face fines for breaking rules that govern the industry.

Industry Minister James Moore announced Wednesday that the government is making legislative changes in an attempt to give consumers more competition in the wireless market, dominated by Rogers, Bell and Telus.

"Currently, high domestic roaming rates hold back many providers, especially new entrants, from offering more choice, lower prices and better service to Canadians," Moore said in a statement.

Ottawa will move to prevent the big wireless providers from charging small wireless companies more than they charge their own customers for domestic roaming. Moore said the rates "can be more than 10 times what they charge their own customers."

Roaming fees are charged when customers use their cellphones outside their own network provider's coverage area.

The Big 3

25M

Rogers, Bell and Telus have more than 25 million wireless subscribers among them.

Rogers, Bell and Telus have large national networks, but smaller providers such as Wind Mobile, Mobilicity, Maritime-based Eastlink and Quebec's Vidéotron have to negotiate agreements with the Big Three to give their customers service across the country when they travel.

Moore said the legislative changes will be in place until the CRTC, which is already investigating roaming rates, makes a decision on roaming rates.

Last week, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission said it will look into whether big wireless companies are charging their smaller Canadian competitors too much to use their networks.

The government will also make changes to give the CRTC and Industry Canada the ability to fine companies that break rules such as the wireless code and agreements on deploying wireless spectrum needed to build networks and cellphone tower sharing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Too little, too late?

Canaccord Genuity analyst Dvai Ghose said the move should help the new wireless companies in theory, but said it's "too little, too late."

- Ghose noted that Wind Mobile's majority owner, Russian telecom VimpelCom, has put its stake up for sale and struggling Mobilicity is operating under creditor protection and is also up for sale. Public Mobile has been sold to Telus.
- "In our view, the only potential beneficiaries may be Vidéotron and Eastlink customers when they roam off network," he said in a research note.
- Ghose said Rogers is the main provider of roaming services to the new wireless companies, but assumes that agreements only generate $50 million or less in domestic roaming revenue. "We expect Rogers to generate $6.8 billion of network revenue in 2013, implying that domestic wholesale roaming revenues are largely immaterial."

Majority rules. Delta Air won't allow phone calls

Delta Air Lines won't allow passengers to make voice calls from its planes.

Right now, federal rules prohibit voice calls on planes. But the government is indicating that it might loosen those rules. If that happens, it could be up to airlines to set their own policies.

On Wednesday, Delta went ahead and said, in effect, hang up and enjoy the view from 40,000 feet.

CEO Richard Anderson told workers in a memo that the airline will not allow cell calls or internet-based voice communications on mainline or Delta Connection flights, which are operated by other airlines under contract for Delta.

Quoted

"Our frequent flyers believe voice calls in the cabin would be a disruption to the travel experience."
Delta's CEO Richard Anderson

A "clear majority" of customers in a 2012 survey last year said the ability to make voice calls would make their experience worse, not better, Anderson wrote.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China. Bitcoin exchange bans yuan deposits

The biggest bitcoin exchange in China said Wednesday that it's no longer accepting yuan deposits, dealing another setback to the virtual currency.

BTC China's announcement on its Twitter-like Sina Weibo account comes two weeks after China's central bank said the country's banks and payments systems were barred from handling the virtual currency.

The exchange said that "due to the reasons that everyone knows, BTC China has to temporarily stop its yuan account recharging functions."

Setbacks

The Chinese central bank warned earlier this month that bitcoins don't have any legal status or monetary equivalent and shouldn't be used as currency, adding that financial institutions and payment systems could not sell, trade or store bitcoins.

Account holders can still top up their accounts using bitcoins and withdraw yuan, the exchange said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evolve, or die

Canada Post head defends cuts, rate hike

The head of Canada Post says the corporation needs to make major changes to stay alive in the digital age.

Deepak Chopra appeared before a Commons committee Wednesday, where he defended the Crown agency's proposals to cut service and raise rates. The Canada Post CEO told the transport committee that the postal service must evolve to survive. That means concentrating more on delivering packages and less on putting paper letters in mail boxes, he said.

Chopra told the committee that, in 2007, Canada Post profits began to decline as people and businesses turned to digital communication. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 93.55¢ (-0.70¢)

TSX 13,334.73 (+154.57)

OIL $97.80 US (+$0.58)

GOLD $1,235 US (+$4.90)

Natural gas: $4.27 US (-$0.02)
Dow Jones: 16,167.97 (+292.71)

You spin me right 'round, Copenhagen Wheel

Assaf Biderman, co-inventor of the Copenhagen Wheel and associate director of the SENSEable City Laboratory at MIT, poses with his invention at Superpedestrian, his venture-backed company in Cambridge, Mass. The startup is launching a new device that transforms almost any bicycle into an electric-hybrid vehicle using an app on a smartphone. The Copenhagen Wheel is installed as part of a rear hub of a bike wheel and is packed with a computer, batteries and sensors that monitor how hard a rider is pedalling and activate an onboard motor whenever needed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HYUNDAI

DON'T PAY FOR O

Plus

UP TO $3,000

2013 **ELANTRA**

Limited model shown

DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR*

+

UP TO $2,500 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

2013 **ACCENT 5 DR**

GLS model shown

DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR*

+

UP TO $750 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

+

0%†

FINANCING FOR UP TO 48 MONTHS

ON SELECT 2013 MODELS

2013 S

U P

HURRY IN OFFER E

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

FFUN >> Saskatoon Hyundai

2035 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon, SK

/FFUNHYUNDAI

Call (306) 65

††The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. +Pric $19,249/$30,649/$40,259. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,550/$1,550/$1,650/$1,760. Registration, insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and Destination charge includes f $145 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of $14,999. $0 down payment required (without 12 month payment deferral). Cash price is $14,999. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,350. Registration, price. Price adjustments of up to $2,500/$2,500/$750/$750/$3,000 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata SE Auto/Accent 5 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD/ Genesis 5.0L GDI R-Spec. Price adjustments applied belo new in-stock 2013 Hyundai models. Payment deferral offer applies only to purchase finance offers on approved credit. Payments for purchase finance offers are paid in arrears. If 12-month payment deferral is selected, the original term of the contract wil the principal and interest monthly over the remaining term of the contract. A minimum down payment in the amount of 10% of the purchase price is required. 10)▼+Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without n

AI™

ONE YEAR'

HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTS^Ω

(AMOUNT SHOWN ON THE 2013 GENESIS 5.0L GDI R-SPEC)

SONATA

Limited model shown

DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR'

+

UP TO $2,500 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTS^Ω

2013 SANTA FE SPORT

Limited model shown

DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR'

+

UP TO $750 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTS^Ω

ENDS JAN 2ND

Be your own Santa

FFUN >> Saskatoon Hyundai

Choose Your Own Reward:

a Las Vegas Trip For 2,
a Mexico Cruise For 2,
or a Shopping Spree![†]

Plus:

NO PAYMENTS Until Spring![†]

HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING. NEW POSSIBILITIES.℠

HyundaiCanada.com

59-6014 or visit us at SaskatoonHyundai.com **TODAY!**

...e of models shown: 2013 Elantra Limited/Accent 5 Door GLS 6-Speed Manual/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Limited AWD are $24,849/...eight, PDE, dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services. Financing example: 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual for $14,999 (includes $2,500 in price adjustments at 0% per annum equals ...insurance, PPSA, fees, levies, charges, license fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, PDE, dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicles starting ...ne taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♥0 payments (payment deferral) for up to 12 months is available on all remaining ...l be extended by 11 months for monthly finance contracts. Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. will pay the interest of the deferral for the first 11 months of the monthly finance contract. After this period, interest will start to accrue and the purchaser will pay ...tice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

HYUNDAI
DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR*
2013 SONATA
DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR*
+
UP TO $2,500 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTS*
FFUN >> Saskatoon Hyundai
Choose Your Own Reward
Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA
VISIT US AT: SASKATOONHYUNDAI.COM OR CALL 306.659.6014 /FFUNHYUNDAI 2035 IDYLWYLD DR. N.

TURKEY TROUBLE? LET'S TALK

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I think I've finally found my calling — specifically, my turkey calling.

This holiday season, millions of Canadians from coast to coast will spend hours on the painstaking preparation of their Christmas turkey. And I want to take them under my wing.

You probably don't realize this, but I have been certified as the best Metro columnist/turkey preparer who uses my keyboard. And it's not often you hear those sorts of qualifications. In fact, family members and co-workers alike have long said that when they hear "turkey" they think "John Mazerolle."

I owe my love and intimate knowledge of turkey to the Internet. Namely, butterball.com, which I can say without hyperbole is the best-turkey preparation website I have ever seen this week while preparing for a column that is due in less than an hour.

Butterball's setup is really something. Did you know that for decades they've had a 1-800 line that people can call if they're having turkey trouble?

You call and "turkey experts" help you with what one recent television news report called "your turkey crisis." This is fabulous. I can't count the number of times some turkey-related event has cropped up in my life and I acted like a bird-brain — my prom night/pet turkey "incident," just for starters. And help was only a phone call away.

"Open every November and December, our 50+ experts answer more than 100,000 questions, in both English and Spanish, for thousands of households around the United States and Canada," the website chirps.

What's more, the turkey-talk call centre even added something special this year for the very first time: men.

This is where my calling comes in: I want to talk turkey. As a certified turkey expert, I would like be part of this important and trailblazing team.

For instance, I could explain to guys like me the importance of making sure the bird is not past its best-before date. (In my 20s I had several turkeys I received as Christmas bonuses ruined by two years in the freezer. When the third turkey arrived, the two-year-old bird would get the boot.)

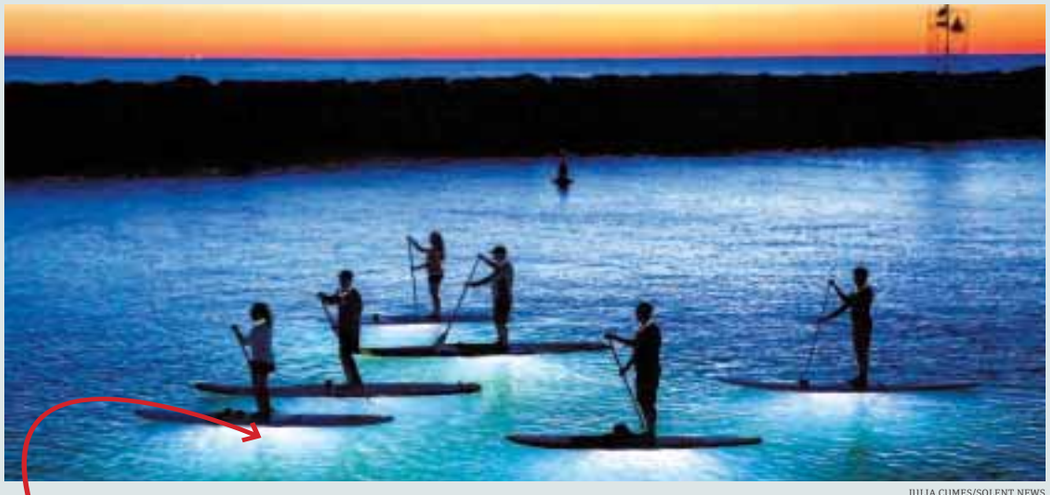
I also believe I could help with the efficiency of those 100,000-plus calls. I can assure you that by about the 300th time I was asked where the meat thermometer goes, I would have several alternative answers at the ready.

Without being sexist, I think I can say men deal with problems in their own special way. I'm sure the women giving thoughtful, detailed instructions over the phone will appreciate the counterpoint of me barking, "What do you mean it won't fit, force it!" and "It's fiiine, I'm sure it's fiiine. It's probably fine."

I must admit, also, that I like the idea of joining this flock because I assume all-you-can-eat turkey is a job perk. Which will be great for me, because despite my credentials and intimate knowledge of turkey, I've never actually cooked one successfully. White and dark meat, please. And cranberries if you've got them. Gobble gobble.

ZOOM

Glow with the flow



JULIA CUMES/SOLENT NEWS

LED lights added to paddle boards

The dark silhouettes of moonlit paddlers appear to be walking on water. The standup paddle-boarding enthusiasts took to the water with specially made LED lights strapped to the bottom of their boards. The surreal image captures the moment Justin Labdon and his team of boarders headed out of a harbour in Dennis, Mass., one night.

METRO

Quoted

"Standing on the jetty photographing down, what I saw was even more beautiful and surreal than I was expecting."

Julia Cumes, 41, photographer based in Cape Cod, Mass.

Sea life attracted to board lights

The LED lights strapped to the bottom of the boards attract fish, including squid, blue fish and big striped bass, says Justin Labdon, owner of Adventure Chatham. Asked by Metro whether the light would entice larger predatory sea life, Labdon replied, "We don't venture out to shark-inhabited areas, but I would assume they might be attracted to the light as well." METRO

LED water sports

- $300 per LED-lit paddle board.
- AdventureChatham offers night-time paddle boarding excursions when there is a full moon out.
- Paddles with LED lights at the end are being considered as his company's next novelty water sports experience, says Labdon.

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
irene.kuan@metronews.ca

GETTY IMAGES

If you've yet to complete your Christmas shopping by now, then you're in for a wild ride — looking for a parking spot at the mall, that is. A congested parking lot full of drivers with short fuses can turn into a real-life nightmare before Christmas. These apps will make looking for a parking spot the least of your worries during the busy shopping season.

Parkopedia:

This app works on all mobile platforms and is like Wikipedia for parking spaces. The creators have set out to map every parking lot and parking space in the world and so far has data, contributed by users, from 28 countries, covering over 25 million parking spots. The app can give directions to the parking space, and provide real-time availability, prices and payment options.

ParkMe:

ParkMe is an award-winning free app for iOS and Android that works to help you find the cheapest and closest parking spaces by providing the cost of parking before you arrive at your destination and lets you compare options. This app works in the U.S., Canada and in European cities.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Calgary cabbies are eyeing a puke penalty to cover the cleanup cost. What is a sufficient penalty for puking in a cab?

@Cory_Boehm: A minimum of $200 seems more than reasonable.

@Canucklehead_ca: So drunk you puke in a cab? I suspect the next morning will present it's own penalty. Maybe two if you have an unknown guest.

@ryanjordandyck: can we get back to the real cab issue? Horrible customer service and lack of accountability? #yyc

@DeafPoet5: I dispatch at an Edmonton company. The going rate for screaming groceries is about $75, depending on how vile the mess is.

@jpmacnab: I think it is $ 50 in Ottawa

@santanapoptarts: barf bags extra large size and $10 keep it real, but the puker must realize its gross and ur in a cab #poordriver

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

metro

President Bill McDonald • **Vice-President & Group Publisher, Metro Western Canada** Steve Shrout • **Editor-in-Chief** Charlotte Empey • **Deputy Editor** Fernando Carneiro • **National Deputy Editor, Digital** Quin Parker • **Managing Editor, Saskatoon** Tara Campbell • **Managing Editor, News & Business** Amber Shortt • **Managing Editor, Life & Entertainment** Dean Lisk • **Sales Manager** Barry Paton • **Vice-President, Sales and Business Ventures** Tracy Day • **Vice-President, Creative** Jeff Smith • **Vice-President, Finance** Phil Jameson **METRO SASKATOON** • #100, 728 Spadina Crescent East Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 4H7 • **Telephone:** 306-649-2025 • **Toll free:** 1-877-895-7193 • **Fax:** 1-888-895-6931 • **Advertising:** adinfosaskatoon@metronews.ca • **Distribution:** saskatoon_distribution@metronews.ca • **News tips:** saskatoon@metronews.ca • **Letters to the Editor:** saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

A comic jack of all trades proves he's a stand-up guy

Funny stuff. Gerry Dee may have a hit TV series, a book and movie roles to his name, but solo shows are his first love

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca

While he has gained a reputation as one of the funniest men in Canada, Gerry Dee becomes surprisingly serious when it comes to the business side of show business.

"Entertainment is a roller coaster business, so you have to hit while you're having success and take advantage of it, and that's what I'm trying to do," Dee said in a telephone interview. "Whatever I can do to keep my name out there, we're just a brand like anything else."

That mentality explains why Dee has been so active in just about every medium imaginable. He's published a book, has a hit TV show and has appeared in movies as well. But he'll soon return to his first love: the stand-up stage.

The Scarborough, Ont., native, who came in third on the fifth season of the NBC reality show Last Comic Standing, has a series of stand-up dates scheduled including a performance at TCU Place in Saskatoon on Dec. 29.

"It's a fairly new show compared to the last time I was in Saskatoon. You try to balance the new stuff with some of the favourites that people like, and keep in mind that there will people there that have never seen me before."

Dee says he has been developing his new material over the past two years — that is, when he hasn't been involved in one of his many other projects. He is currently in production on the third season of his popular CBC comedy Mr. D, which premieres Feb. 24.

Although he expanded his acting horizons with roles in Trailer Park Boys: The Movie and the Canada Russia '72 miniseries, his work on Mr. D isn't much of a stretch. His character is a teacher, which is what the real Mr. Dee did before embarking on a comedy career at the age of 30.

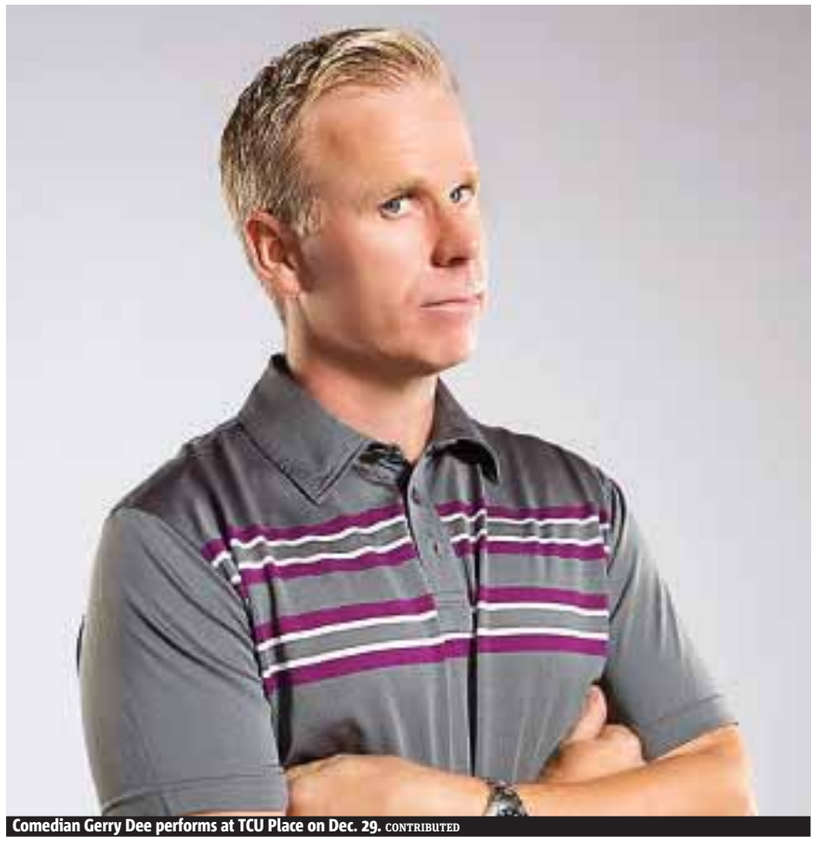
"In season three (the character) gets a taste of teaching phys ed, which is what he wants. That's a fun episode because that's really where most of my background in teaching was," Dee said. "I think overall it's just a funnier, better season."

He has difficulty picking a favourite medium, saying it depends on what he happens to be doing at the time.

"I think when I'm shooting Mr. D, I miss stand-up. And when I'm doing stand-up I miss filming. So I'm very lucky to love two things that I do."

Dee Scores again?

- Gerry Dee gained attention for a series of sports segments he did for The Score starting in 2007. He hints he might return to doing the interviews in some form soon, but can't reveal specifics. As for his favourite all-time interviews, he picks the players who knew how to play along.
- "I like the athletes that try to venture into comedy and you know Eli and Peyton (Manning) have done that and Charles Barkley's done that with his commercials. I appreciate the guys who can make me laugh."



Comedian Gerry Dee performs at TCU Place on Dec. 29. CONTRIBUTED

Moores
CLOTHING FOR MEN
WEEKEND DEALS
4 DAYS ONLY!
DEC. 19–DEC. 22
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
PLUS, TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE
NOW–DEC. 23
To find a store near you, visit mooresclothing.com
Buy 1 Get 1 excludes Weekend Deals, shoes, clearance, and Everyday Low Price items. Other restrictions apply. Free item must be of equal or lesser value. See store or website for details.

SUBSIDIZED SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM
Any Saskatoon household whose total household income falls under Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut Offs is eligible for the Subsidized Spay and Neuter Program.
This is a collaborative effort to meet the needs of our community. The City of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Academy of Veterinary Practitioners and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine have joined forces to deliver this initiative, with the assistance of New Hope Dog Rescue, SCAT Street Cat Rescue and the Saskatoon SPCA.
City of Saskatoon
For more information, visit www.saskatoon.ca and look under 'A' for Animal Services.
ANIMAL SERVICES

There are holiday flicks and then there are flicks set during the holidays.
Two very different things, each offering their own twist on all the naughty and nice things the season has to offer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

5 Non-festive holiday flicks

In Bruges

You'd have to pay attention to realize this dark comedy actually takes place during the holiday season — the only references are casual asides and the occasional shot of Christmas decorations in the background. And the plot itself is hardly cheer-filled: It centres on two hitmen, played by Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, who are sent to Belgium to lay low after an especially messy job.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

This is hardly holiday fare, unless you count perverse family dysfunction as a key hallmark of your seasonal gatherings. The horrors in this dark thriller kick off several days before Dec. 25 and unfold through a bitterly cold Scandinavian winter. It centres on a dogged journalist, played by Michael Nyqvist in the 2009 Swedish-language version and Daniel Craig in the 2011 remake, who traces the decades-old disappearance of a young woman with the help of a tattooed hacker, originally played by Noomi Rapace and later by Rooney Mara.

Iron Man 3

Writer/director Shane Black clearly has a thing about Christmas. Many of his flicks — including Iron Man 3 — take place during the holiday season, among them Lethal Weapon, The Last Boy Scout, The Long Kiss Goodnight and Kiss Kiss Bang Bang. There's something about a Christmas setting that ably unites varied characters and pulls together a sprawling storyline while driving home key plot points, while blowing stuff up, of course.

Goodfellas

This Martin Scorsese classic makes the cut by way of the fact it spans several decades and therefore includes a holiday-themed scene, and it is a doozy featuring Robert De Niro's trademark intensity: After a lucrative heist leaves the mobsters flush with cash, some arrive at a holiday party flaunting the spoils, sending De Niro's pragmatic Jimmy into a fury for attracting unwanted attention.

About a Boy

The holiday shmaltz sneaks up on you in this Hugh Grant romantic comedy about a self-absorbed bachelor who is more humbug than ho-ho-ho. Until he befriends a young boy and the boy's suicidal mum, of course, and gradually learns there's more to life than hook-ups and his posh hipster toys. Added holiday points come from the fact Grant's character lives on royalties from his father's song Santa's Super Sleigh.

Tyler Perry takes a turn for the serious

Gone Girl. The man behind Madea says working with David Fincher was 'awe-inspiring'

Tyler Perry writes, directs, stars in and produces his own movies and TV shows, so he doesn't have much time for outside projects. One he's glad he made work is a role in director David Fincher's upcoming film Gone Girl.

Based on the bestselling novel by Gillian Flynn, Gone Girl is the story of a man who comes under suspicion in the disappearance of his wife. The movie, scheduled for release next October, stars Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike.

Gone Girl is "the most educational, awe-inspiring thing that I've ever done," Perry said in a recent interview.

"Sitting in his presence, in his genius, the man is a genius," he said of Fincher. "It really makes me go, 'Whoa, let me just stop and take this in,' so it's been wonderful."

And, as one filmmaker to another, he's humbled by working with the Oscar-nominated director.

"I'm a storyteller. That man is a di-rec-tor. He is amazing. And to watch him work and to watch how he paints his pictures, the tableaus, everything is really just beyond anything I could ever imagine."

Quoted

"I'm a storyteller. That man is a di-rec-tor. He is amazing."

Tyler Perry on working on Gone Girl with Oscar-nominated director David Fincher

Perry plays Madea, a big and boisterous grandmother he's made popular in previous movies, in Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas, now in theatres.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tyler Perry is happy he made the time to work on Gone Girl with David Fincher. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Bruce Willis ALL IMAGES GETTY

Willis and wife expecting baby number two

Bruce Willis is reportedly set to be a father once again, with wife Emma Heming expecting the couple's second child, according to Us Weekly. Willis and Heming are also parents to one-year-old daughter Mabel, while Willis also has three daughters — Rumer, Scout and Tallulah — with ex-wife Demi Moore.

Kelly LeBrock

LeBrock arrested for driving under the influence

Weird Science star Kelly LeBrock was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence following a routine traffic stop in Santa Barbara last month, according to E! News. The model and actress — famous for her "don't hate me because I'm beautiful" Pantene ads from the '80s — failed to stop at a stop sign and was exceeding the speed limit and straddling the double yellow line when cops pulled her over. She then reportedly failed field sobriety tests and was arrested "without incident."

The Word

Lawrence condemns fat insults

Jennifer Lawrence is going on the offensive when it comes to Hollywood's warped body image standards. "I just think it should be illegal to call somebody fat on TV," the star tells Barbara Walters in an interview. "Because why is humiliating people funny? I get it, and I do it too, we all do it. But I think when it comes to the media, the media needs to take responsibility for the effect that it has on our younger generation, on these girls who are watching these television shows and picking up how to talk and how to be cool."

Julia Roberts

Roberts did not relish a bit of rough and tumble with Streep

Surprisingly, Julia Roberts didn't relish the opportunity to tackle Meryl Streep and wrestle her to the carpet in August: Osage County, she revealed during a post-premiere Q & A. "I didn't look forward to it," Roberts says. "It's not how I saw the dream of my time with Meryl Streep. But she was a worthy opponent. She was not going down without some scratches and some heels in thighs." And while there were stunt personnel on hand to help the actresses, Roberts handled her tackling herself, apparently. "Julia didn't need a stunt double because she's plenty tough," Streep says.

Twitter

@Johncusack
So good to check back in with CNN every few years — Piers Morgan in a fiery debate with Ann Coulter whether Santa is white

@JuddApatow
When someone says there was too much marketing of Anchorman 2 I usually say 'you go up against The Hobbit without marketing. FU grandma!'

@oliviawilde
I broke into @jayleno's dressing room and stole one of his jackets for my fetus.

Great Incentives

Lawson Village
- $499 Security Deposit
- 1 & 2 bdrm apartments
- Close to schools & shopping

186 Pinehouse Dr.
306-683-5650

Stonebridge Apartments & Townhomes
- $499 Security Deposit
- 1,2 & 3 bdrm suites
- In suite washer/dryer

Reid Rd.
306-683-2440

Chancellor Gate
- $499 Security Deposit
- 1, 2 & 3 bdrm apartments
- Near schools, shopping & easy access to circle drive

403 Pendygrasse Rd.
306-683-5655

Ask about our unbelievable incentives!

BOARDWALK RENTAL COMMUNITIES
Bringing You Home

www.bwalk.com

Their style is in the stars

Forget trying to break your giftees down into the usual gift guide categories of personality type or price. We spoke to identical twin sisters Tali and Ophira Edut, a.k.a .The AstroTwins, to find out what each star sign typically desires when it comes to the season of goodwill.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Aries

"As a fire sign, Aries are very competitive. They rule the head and are always thinking of ways to improve their lives. So accessories that draw attention and frame the face, like hats, earrings and makeup, would be good options."

Maison Michel boater
$616, net-a-porter.com

Taurus

"The bull likes items that are practical and durable. They want luxury things that are built to last. Purposeful items, like pajamas and shoes, with an understated design will work best for this Earth sign."

Frends Layla leather and rose gold headphones
$214, net-a-porter.com

Gemini

"Those born under this air sign are very eclectic. They have a bit of a wacky, boho style. Channel the Olsen twins and you won't go wrong. They're very curious and love to explore. Opt for natural fabrics and fruity fragrances for bonus points."

Ilse Jacobsen lace up wellies
$164, gift-library.com

Libra

"Libras love presents that look pretty. They have a very girly sense of style, so opt for jewellery or chocolates that are decadent and have a beautiful aesthetic. Try cosmetics that feel indulgent rather than just practical."

Laura Mercier almond coconut milk honey bath
$51, johnlewis.com

Scorpio

"The most sensual of the signs, Scorpios love to embrace a dramatic atmosphere. Choose items that are dark and indulgent. They have expensive taste and love exclusives."

Elle Macpherson Intimates lace bra
$57, net-a-porter.com

Sagittarius

"Ruled by the sun, Sagittarians are always on the go. They love bold colour patterns, especially citrus combinations. As they travel a lot, items that make plane rides and road trips easier or more fun would be good options."

Lotus Wei Pure Energy mist
$48, beingcontent.com

Cancer

"The home is where Cancers feel most comfortable. They have an almost grandmotherly style, which extends to their wardrobe too. Pearls, old fashioned prints and pastel colours suit them best."

Penhaligon's Bluebell eau de toilette
$140, penhaligons.com

Leo

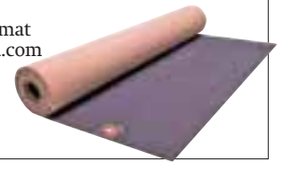
"Big, bold and outgoing sums up this fire sign. Leos are very outgoing and love to socialize. So look for gifts that have a cool and unusual pattern or anything with dazzling embellishments."

Marc by Marc Jacobs tablet case
$40.60, shopbop.com

Virgo

'They are worriers and extremely neurotic. Anything that encourages relaxation and sends them a subtle sign that they need to unwind and calm down would be good. Choose things in pretty colours that are soothing."

eKO lite yoga mat
$48, manduka.com



Capricorn

"An Earth sign that loves luxury items — but only if they are built to last. Capricorns want good quality items with a minimalist design. Although, they sound hard to please they are, in fact, very down to earth and adore practical presents. "

Leather wrap gloves
$64, stories.com

Aquarius

"Those with the eleventh sign are gypsies at heart. Anything that embraces their boho, wacky style would be warmly welcomed especially colourful jewellery and bold prints."

Lucy Folk silver taco bracelet
$115, matchesfashion.com

Pisces

"The most dreamy and mystical of the signs, Pisceans adore anything that embraces this side of their personality. Good options include natural and precious materials that help towards creating a serene atmosphere or channeling positive vibes."

Essential oil soy wax candle
$30, bsabcandles.com

HYUNDAI
DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR*
2013 ACCENT 5 DR
SLS model shown
DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR
+
UP TO $750 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTS*
*See Dealer for Details.
FFUN >> Saskatoon Hyundai
Choose Your Own Reward
Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA
VISIT US AT: SASKATOONHYUNDAI.COM OR CALL 306.659.6014 /FFUNHYUNDAI 2035 IDYLWYLD DR. N.

No need to be bitter if the eggplant sandwiches turn out a little cheesy

Ingredients

4 portions

- 1 whole egg
- 2 tbsp water or 2% milk
- 1 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp minced fresh garlic
- 10 slices of eggplant, skin on
- 3/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

Eggplant, a healthy vegetable, is often loaded with fat and calories from the amount of oil used in frying or sautéing it.

This baked version omits the oil, and it turns out great! Purchase fresh young eggplant; when overripe, it becomes bitter. If the skin doesn't spring back when pressed, then it's too old.

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C). Spray a large baking sheet with cooking oil

2. Whisk the egg with the water in a small bowl. Combine the bread crumbs, parsley, Parmesan and garlic on a plate, mixing well. Dip the eggplant in the egg mixture, then coat with the bread crumb mixture. Place on the prepared pan. Bake, turning once, for 20 minutes or until tender.

3. Spread half of the tomato sauce in a large casserole dish. Place 5 eggplant slices over top. Top each with remaining tomato sauce. Add half the mozzarella cheese and top with remaining eggplant slices. Top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan. Bake for five minutes or until the cheese is melted.

Preparation time 10 minutes
Cooking time 25 minutes

Cheesy Eggplant Sandwiches

A delicious combination of eggplant and cheese. ROSE REISMAN

Mind the App

How to make Substitutions

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

iPhone/iPad
$0.99

Holiday meals can be tricky with guests who have allergies or special needs. This handy reference will help you pick out replacement ingredients without changing recipes or abandoning family traditions.

Be more original with sweet potatoes

Sweet potatoes generally get one of three treatments at the dinner table. They are mashed like regular potatoes; they are roasted like squash, or they are saturated with sugar until they no longer resemble a vegetable. This is a nice alternative.

Heat the oven to 400 F. Poke the sweet potatoes all over with a fork.

Place the sweet potatoes directly on the oven's centre rack and bake for 1 hour, or until completely tender.

While the sweet potatoes cook, steam the cauliflower. Set a steamer basket in a medium saucepan with 1/2 inch of water.

Place the saucepan over medium-high heat and add the cauliflower to the steamer basket. Cover and cook until the cauliflower is very tender, about 15 minutes. Remove the cauliflower from the steamer and set aside.

When the sweet potatoes are baked, let them cool until easily handled.

Peel the sweet potatoes, then place the flesh in a large bowl.

Add 3 tablespoons of the butter and the orange zest, then mash well. Season with salt and pepper, cover the bowl and set aside.

Place the steamed cauliflower and the remaining 1 tablespoon of butter in the food processor. Process until pureed.

Add the Parmesan, then pulse to combine. Add the cauliflower puree to the sweet potatoes, using a spoon to swirl the two together without completely mixing them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orange sweet potatoes swirled with Parmesan cauliflower puree. HANDOUT

Ingredients

- 4 large sweet potatoes
- 16 ounces cauliflower florets, fresh or frozen
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- Zest of 1 orange
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan

Recipe. Mango and brie quesadillas

In a small bowl, combine mango, jalapeno, onion and cilantro. Add lime juice, mixing well to combine. (Make ahead: Prepare mango salsa up to 2 hours in advance. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.) Divide brie evenly among tortillas, laying it on the lower half. Divide mango salsa evenly on top of brie. Fold each tortilla in half.

Preheat contact grill. (If your contact grill has more than one temperature setting, set it to high.)

Spray both sides of contact grill with vegetable cooking spray or oil. Place quesadillas on grill with folded side closest to front edge. (This prevents cheese from running down into the drip tray.)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 mango, peeled and chopped
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) minced red onion
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime
- 250 g (8 oz) brie, thinly sliced
- 8 tortillas (25 cm/10 inches in diameter)

Brit Foods "The Best From Britain" British Groceries & Imports
• A large selection of Plum Puddings and Christmas Cakes
• Mr. Kipling Mince Pies & M&S Biscuits
• Roses, Celebrations, & Heroes
• Thorntons Chocolates & Toffees
Looking for a unique gift? Then drop by our quaint corner shop and see what we have in store for you!
BRIT FOODS Like us on facebook – britfoodssaskatoon
7 - 1501 8th Street East, Saskatoon 306.384.2748 • Toll Free: 1.888.384.2748
Open Monday - Saturday 10 - 5 • Open Sundays 'til Christmas from 11 - 3!

HYUNDAI
DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR
2013 SANTA FE SPORT
DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR
+
UP TO $750 HOLIDAY PRICE ADJUSTMENTS*
FFUN
Choose Your Own Reward
Fabulous LAS VEGAS
VISIT US AT: SASKATOONHYUNDAI.COM OR CALL 306.659.6014 /FFUNHYUNDAI 2035 IDYLWYLD DR. N.

Mid-century mash-up

The 1950s and '60s have offered up a lot of home-decor inspiration over the past year — anything retro or vintage-influenced is hot-hot-hot. The look is a mishmash of past design that can encompass a trip to the parental basement or a hunt through a vintage shop, and retailers have cleverly channelled it. Here are some trendy and stylish products to transport you back to a Mad Men era.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Shiny citrus tones against deep grey stoneware lends retro style to dinner parties. Verte Dinnerware 16-piece set, $79, urbanbarn.com.

Adorn your dresser with heirloom-style brooches without robbing Mom's jewel box. Keepsake Brooch Knob, $14 US, anthropologie.com.

Save your quarters with this modernized pay phone and savings bank all in one; the perfect wall phone for calling a taxi. Crosley Vintage Style Pay Telephone, $90, sears.ca.

Light up your chandelier in true '70s style. 25-watt Chandelier Light Bulb set of four, $24 US, urbanoutfitters.com.

Inspired by late '50s Danish mid-century design; open and airy for a light look. Patrik Accent Chair, $1,600, thebay.com.

Straight out of Granny's china cabinet, fanciful flatware dresses up a modern table. Flores Flatware, from $7 per piece, zarahome.com.

Olympics

Harper to miss Sochi Games along with Obama

If Stephen Harper or Barack Obama plan to do any Olympics-watching next February, they'll be staring at a screen and not from the stands.

The Canadian prime minister announced Wednesday that he will not be attending the Games, prompting speculation of an international snub over Russia's gay-rights record.

Harper's office announced the news discreetly, in a late-evening email. The message from the Prime Minister's Office noted that Harper has gone to only one Olympics since he took office, and that lone exception was for obvious reasons.

"He normally does not attend (Vancouver was an exception because Canada was the host)," a prime ministerial spokesman said in an email.

That news came a day after the U.S. announced it will not send a president, former president, first lady or vice-president to the Games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Blues sign Steen to three-year, $17.4M deal

The St. Louis Blues have agreed to a $17.4-million US, three-year contract extension with forward Alex Steen.

Steen has 22 goals and 14 assists in 33 games this season. The 22 goals are tied for second in the NHL, trailing only Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals.

His 36 points are good for ninth in the league.

The 29-year-old Winnipeg-born Swede was set to be an unrestricted free agent this summer. Instead, he'll have a cap hit of $5.8 million over the next three seasons.

In 570 career games with Toronto and St. Louis, Steen has 145 goals and 194 assists.

His start this season represented a breakout performance.

He scored 20 goals in his first 24 games in 2013-14, becoming the fastest player in franchise history to reach that plateau since Brett Hull in 1990-91.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sens descend into Devils' lair

The Senators' Zack Smith tries to intercept a Martin Brodeur pass on Wednesday night in New Jersey. The Senators lost 5-2. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Classic case of December malaise

NHL. Under HBO's watchful eye, featured franchise being dragged down by injuries

Red Wings head coach Mike Babcock waits on the rink at Clark Park in Detroit on Monday. The NHL and the Red Wings unveiled a "Winter Classic Legacy Initiative" that will bring improvements to the ice rink including a new Zamboni and ice upgrades. DAVID GURALNICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The sky wasn't so bright; Pavel Datsyuk didn't need to wear eye black.

"No sun," he said. "In Detroit, no sunny days. We start winning, it might be sunny."

These are gloomy days for the Red Wings, losers of six straight dating to their last victory Dec. 6. Amid a torrent of injuries, they spent Wednesday afternoon practising outdoors at Comerica Park with the hope that will get them re-focused.

Coach Mike Babcock fondly recalls playing on a frozen pond near Wapoos Bay in Leaf Rapids, Man., growing up. The stadium the Detroit Tigers call home isn't that, but it was still special for him and his players.

"You try to do enough team-building stuff throughout the year to change things up, to break up the monotony," Babcock said Wednesday afternoon, standing on what's usually the middle of the infield. "It's always fun to be outside."

Babcock considered cancelling the pre-arranged outdoor practice following Tuesday night's 5-2 loss to the Anaheim Ducks down the street at Joe Louis Arena. Because it was promoted as a chance for fans to come out and watch for free, that wasn't an option.

"It was good. We had a good little practice and more important than our practice we had a good meeting here this morning. We've got to get things right," Babcock said.

There are a lot of things to get right given that the Red Wings have scored a total of seven goals in their past six games. They've picked up two points from shootout losses, but that's all they have to show for a week and a half of play.

Naturally, the mood inside the locker-room, with HBO's 24/7 cameras capturing it, hasn't been great.

"You don't feel very good when you're losing, and I think everyone feels the same way," defenceman Niklas Kronwall said. "We have to stop this right now. Enough's enough. It's almost like we've been doing enough talking. We know what to do out there. It's a matter of going out there and actually doing it, not just saying we should do it."

Injuries have a lot to do with the losing. The Red Wings are missing eight regulars, including captain Henrik Zetterberg (back), goaltender Jimmy Howard (knee), forwards Johan Franzen (concussion), Justin Abdelkader (concussion), Stephen Weiss (groin), Gustav Nyquist (groin), Darren Helm (shoulder) and defenceman Danny DeKeyser (shoulder).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rest for Alfredsson

Former Senators captain Daniel Alfredsson didn't skate Wednesday, but Red Wings coach Mike Babcock explained it as a 41-year-old getting a day off.

- Alfredsson missed five games in November with a groin injury.

4 SPORTS

Montgomery at risk of missing Sochi Olympics

Skeleton. Reigning gold medallist in tough to earn Canada's final men's position at Winter Games

The man who gave the host country one of its most memorable moments of the 2010 Winter Olympics faces long odds to compete at the next Winter Games.

Jon Montgomery's gold medal in skeleton at the Whistler Sliding Centre and his subsequent auctioning off of a pitcher of beer in the village square elevated him to folk-hero status.

But the 34-year-old from Russell, Man., might not make the 2014 team for Sochi, Russia, in February.

Montgomery's results the last season and a half have yet to meet Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton's qualification criteria.

He needs to hit the ball out of the park and also have a little luck in the four races he has left to qualify before Jan. 19.

"Unfortunately for me, I'm fighting an uphill battle in that regard," Montgomery said Wednesday in Calgary. "I would guess the way things have gone it would be nothing short of winning the four races before that deadline."

Mellisa Hollingsworth of Eckville, Alta., Calgary's Sarah Reid and John Fairbairn and Eric Neilson of Kelowna, B.C., were introduced Wednesday as Canada's skeleton athletes for Sochi.

Canada can qualify a third man and a third woman for Sochi in January, according to head coach Duff Gibson. Should Canada gain those berths, Montgomery is up against Dave Greszczyszyn of Burlington, Ont., for the final spot on the men's team. It will come down to points earned in races.

Greszczyszyn is currently ranked 23rd in the world and Montgomery 25th with 32 points separating them.

If the two men end up close or tied in points, it could come down to coach's discretion, which Gibson doesn't relish. The 2006 Olympic champion hopes the sliders sort it out themselves so he can avoid that painful decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I know I created the bed I'm sleeping in, but I'm only disappointed. Disappointed is fleeting. Regret is lasting."

Jon Montgomery doesn't regret taking off the 2011-12 season or the move to a new sled, which hasn't translated into success on the track.

Battle for the last spot

Jon Montgomery didn't qualify in fall selection races for the World Cup team. He's competing on the secondary Intercontinental Cup circuit where results are worth fewer points than World Cup results. Dave Greszczyszyn will continue to race World Cups.

- "Dave will be earning twice as many points for his results on World Cup than I will be on IC," Montgomery said. "If I win all four races and Dave gets 13th in his races he'll beat me out in points."
- Montgomery will race twice in Whistler, B.C., on the track of his Olympic triumph before a pair of races in Park City, Utah, in January.

Mellisa Hollingsworth, from Eckville, Alta., celebrates with schoolchildren after being named to the 2014 Olympic skeleton team at a news conference in Calgary on Wednesday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nightclub altercation

Lucic still has love for Vancouver

Days after saying he was done defending his hometown following an altercation at a nightclub, Boston Bruins forward Milan Lucic says he's still "proud" to be from Vancouver.

Lucic claims he was punched twice Saturday night after the Vancouver Canucks defeated the Bruins 6-2 in Boston's first visit to Rogers Arena since the club's victory in Game 7 of the 2011 Stanley Cup final.

"I have no reason left to try and defend my city, and the people of my city," Lucic told reporters in Boston on Monday.

Lucic, who starred for the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants before making the jump to the NHL, backtracked somewhat Wednesday in a statement released through the Bruins.

"While the actions of a few individuals have deeply upset me and will impact the time I spend downtown going forward, I will not let those incidents diminish the love and pride I have for the city as a whole," the statement read. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis. Djokovic enlists Becker as a coach to help him 'win new trophies'

Novak Djokovic is turning to Boris Becker for help in 2014.

The second-ranked Serb said Wednesday that Becker will join his staff for next season as head coach.

"He is a true legend, someone who has great tennis knowledge and his experience will help me win new trophies from the Grand Slams and other tournaments," Djokovic said in a statement. "Becker is a great person, too, and I am sure he will fit in our team in the best possible way."

The 46-year-old Becker, a six-time Grand Slam champion, will travel with Djokovic and other coaches to tournaments, including next month's Australian Open.

Djokovic won his fourth Australian Open title last year and finished the 2013 season ranked No. 2 in the world behind Rafael Nadal.

Becker will join a coaching staff that also includes Marian Vajda, Miljan Amanovic and Gebhard Phil-Gritsch.

"I will do my best to help him reach his goals, and I am sure we can achieve great things together," said Becker, who became the youngest man to win Wimbledon when he was 17 in 1985.

Novak Djokovic GETTY IMAGES FILE

Vajda, who has been working with Djokovic since 2006, said the Serb needed a new head coach to continue improving.

"Becker's assignment will not affect much my position in the team, since I will do all I can for Novak, just like I did before," Vajda said. "On the other hand, choosing Boris as the head coach is a good solution, I am sure we will get along very well, and that Novak will continue to progress."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	34	23	9	2	94	70	48
Montreal	36	21	12	3	91	76	45
Tampa Bay	34	20	11	3	93	82	43
Detroit	36	15	12	9	91	99	39
Toronto	36	17	16	3	99	105	37
Ottawa	36	14	16	6	101	118	34
Florida	35	13	17	5	81	110	31
Buffalo	34	8	23	3	59	98	19

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	35	24	10	1	108	75	49
Washington	34	18	13	3	107	102	39
Carolina	34	14	13	7	79	94	35
Philadelphia	34	15	15	4	81	93	34
New Jersey	35	14	15	6	83	87	34
NY Rangers	34	16	17	1	76	91	33
Columbus	34	14	16	4	87	95	32
NY Islanders	35	9	19	7	85	121	25

Wednesday's results
New Jersey 5 Ottawa 2
Pittsburgh at NY Rangers
Tuesday's results
Boston 2 Calgary 0
Buffalo 4 Winnipeg 2
Tampa Bay 3 NY Islanders 2 (SO)
Florida 3 Toronto 1
Anaheim 5 Detroit 2
Montreal 3 Phoenix 1
Philadelphia 5 Washington 2
Minnesota 3 Vancouver 2 (SO)
San Jose 4 St. Louis 2
Chicago 3 Nashville 1
Dallas 3 Colorado 2
Los Angeles 3 Edmonton 0
Thursday's games
All Times Eastern
Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	37	25	7	5	138	102	55
St. Louis	33	22	7	4	114	80	48
Colorado	33	22	10	1	96	78	45
Minnesota	36	20	11	5	84	83	45
Dallas	33	16	12	5	95	101	37
Nashville	34	16	15	3	78	95	35
Winnipeg	36	15	16	5	95	106	35

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	36	24	7	5	116	91	53
Los Angeles	35	23	8	4	97	68	50
San Jose	34	21	7	6	112	84	48
Vancouver	36	20	10	6	100	86	46
Phoenix	33	18	10	5	105	103	41
Calgary	34	13	16	5	86	108	31
Edmonton	36	11	22	3	93	123	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games
Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Saturday's games
Calgary at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	28	47
Kane, Chi	20	26	46
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	28	10	38
Tavares, NYI	13	25	38
Perry, Ana	22	15	37

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	5	.800	—
d-Miami	19	6	.760	1
Atlanta	14	12	.538	6½
d-Boston	12	15	.444	9
Detroit	13	14	.481	8
Charlotte	12	14	.462	8½
Washington	11	13	.458	8½
Chicago	9	14	.391	10
Toronto	9	14	.391	10
Cleveland	9	15	.375	10½
Brooklyn	9	16	.360	11
Orlando	8	18	.308	12½
New York	7	17	.292	12½
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	13½
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	22	4	.846	—
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	1
d-San Antonio	19	5	.792	2
d-L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	5
Houston	16	9	.640	5½
Phoenix	14	9	.609	6½
Denver	14	10	.583	7
Dallas	14	10	.583	7
Golden State	14	12	.538	8
Minnesota	12	13	.480	9½
L.A. Lakers	12	13	.480	9½
New Orleans	11	12	.478	9½
Memphis	10	14	.417	11
Sacramento	7	17	.292	14
Utah	7	21	.250	16

x - clinched playoff berth; **y** - division; **z** - conference.

Wednesday's results
Utah 86 Orlando 82
Charlotte 104 Toronto 102 OT
Miami 97 Indiana 94
Atlanta 124 Sacramento 107
Detroit 107 Boston 106
Washington 113 Brooklyn 107
New York at Milwaukee
Portland at Minnesota
Memphis at Dallas
San Antonio at Phoenix
Chicago at Houston
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers
Thursday's games
Chicago at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may have lots of big ideas in your mind but are you ever going to get around to turning them into something useful, something that makes a difference both to yourself and to others?

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may resent having to pay for something you think you should get for free but if you make a scene you may end up paying even more.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Partnerships of all kinds have been under the spotlight of late and will remain so until the Sun moves out of your opposite sign this weekend.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It may seem as if someone is trying to undermine your position, and maybe they are, but there is no need to worry about it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You have been in impressive form of late but all good things must come to an end and life may not be quite so easy when the Sun changes signs on the 21st. If there is anything of a creative nature that needs doing then do it now.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you feel the need to kiss and make up with a partner or relative now is the time. If you leave it much longer you may find that it isn't so easy or, worse, that they have found the love they need with someone else.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
What happens over the next few days will help you to understand that your priorities are wrong, that you are worrying about the things you cannot change while neglecting the things you can.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Slow things right down and take stock of how far you have come, because only then will you be in a position to decide how far you still have to go.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Sun remains in your sign only until Saturday, so get busy and get as much done as you can between now and then.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
When the Sun moves into your sign this weekend a new solar year begins. Make it your objective, today and tomorrow, to look back over the past 12 months and learn what you can from your mistakes.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Spend as much time as you can with your friends today because you may not get so many opportunities to be sociable in the days and weeks to follow.

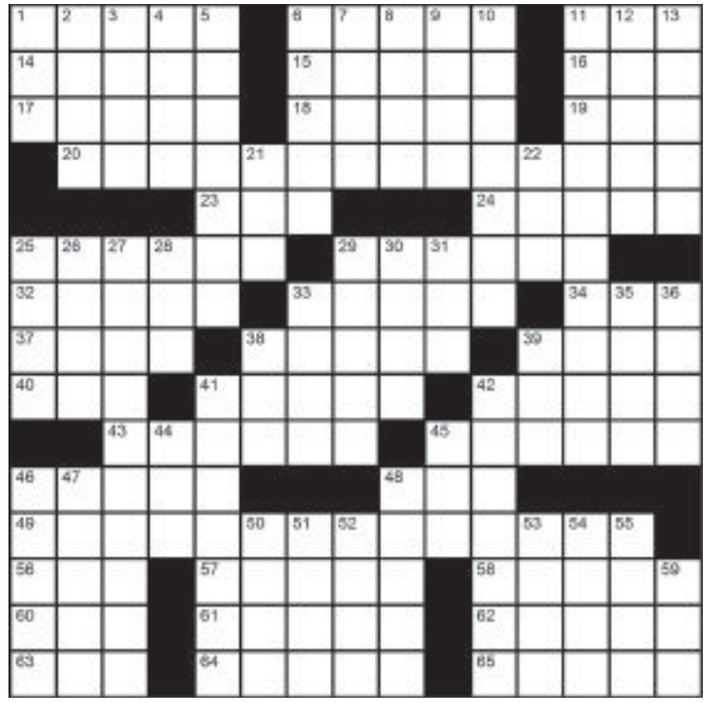
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You need to convince those in positions of power that you deserve to be given more responsibility and the rewards that go with it. Timing is everything and the right time is now.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

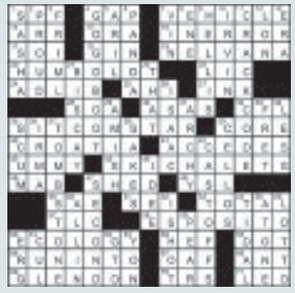
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Tropical nut
6. __ __ behold!
11. "Pick a Puppy" channel
14. "ER" actress Ms. Tierney
15. Ewoks' forest moon home
16. Not 'neath
17. 'Material' suffix
18. Invest
19. San Francisco's __ Valley
20. Prospector in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": 2 wds.
23. __-Jongg
24. Actor's tucked-into-shoes devices
25. Country songstress, __ Lynne
29. Sidekick to #20-Across
32. Birchbark craft
33. Range
34. NHL official
37. With a flair for crafts
38. Lyrical lament
39. Bygone time
40. Golfer's gadget
41. Partake in Winter fun
42. "...not a creature was stirring, not even a __."
43. Prince __, British Columbia
45. Awakens
46. "The Birds" (1963) star Ms. Hedren
48. Highway topping
49. They're on the Canadian side at Niagara: 2 wds.
56. Pasta names suffix
57. Environment Minister, Ms. Aglukkaq
58. Donald Trump's first wife
60. '_' __ for Rimouski
61. Gourmand
62. 'frisco footballer
63. Actor, Daniel __ Kim
64. Skirt alternative
65. Kind of duck

Down
1. Dieter's stat.
2. Simple
3. Ballet outfit
4. Mr. Estrada
5. Alberta city between Red Deer and Edmonton
6. Bloodsucker
7. Never, __ __ occasion
8. Env. info
9. Morning's follower
10. Phys. of 1969 to 1976 TV: 2 wds.
11. Like many a Christmas Tree
12. "Count __ __." (I don't want to participate)
13. Lock of hair
21. "Nope."
22. Rap music's Kim
25. Hightail it
26. Tortoise's competitor
27. Hamlet in the Northwest Territories
28. Actress Myrna
29. "Grace Under Fire" star Ms. Butler
30. Try to persuade
31. Vachon treat, __ West
33. Wing-like
35. Poet's 'previously'
36. Charges
38. Just manage, __ out
39. Particular pronoun
41. Said one's lengthy piece
42. Banff National Park: __ Lake, it's glacier-fed
44. Sit-__ (Exercises)
45. UK military service
46. Race place
47. Ancient Greek colony
48. "__ are Not Enough" by Northern Lights
50. Singe
51. Table d'__ (Fixed price restaurant menu)
52. Threes - twos = whats?
53. Old Rome's 57
54. Ground
55. Dagger
59. ETA part, for short

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

7		8		4	5			1
	5		8					2
	1		3				8	
9							2	
		4	6		7	1		
	6							3
	7				2		1	
3					9		5	
6			5	1		8		

Yesteday's Sudoku

Today -22°/-25° Sunny
Friday -19°/-32° Partly sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

visit metronews.ca
metro

Moores®

CLOTHING FOR MEN

WEEKEND DEALS
4 DAYS ONLY!

DEC. 19—DEC. 22

$349.99

SUITS MADE IN ITALY
Reg. $699.99–$799.99

60% OFF

SWEATERS

60% OFF

TIES
Includes Calvin Klein,
Alfred Sung, and Sean John

60% OFF

OUTERWEAR
Includes Calvin Klein,
Alfred Sung, and Tommy Hilfiger

50% OFF

JEANS
Includes Black Bull, Buffalo,
Lucky, and Parasuco

ADDITIONAL
25% OFF

ALL RED TAG CLEARANCE

132411MO_V2

Restrictions apply. Additional charge for Big & Tall items. Excludes clearance and Everyday Low Price items. Discount taken off the regular price.

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 23

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE + TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **10% OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE

Excludes Weekend Deals, shoes, clearance, and Everyday Low Price items. Other restrictions apply. Free item must be of equal or lesser value. See store or website for details.

To find a store near you, visit mooresclothing.com